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09/939,814	08/28/2001	Satoshi Ejima	032440.01	3963

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EXAMINER

MISLEH, JUSTIN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/939,814

Applicant(s)

EJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Justin P. Misleh

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 - 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8 - 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/965,200.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Note to Applicant: The Examiner of record has changed for the present application.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to **Claims 8, 13, 20, and 27** have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 8 – 10, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 26 – 29, and 31 – 34** are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US 5 635 984) in view of Anderson (US 6 249 316 B1).

4. For **Claim 8**, Lee discloses an information processing apparatus which:

enable selection of a plurality of images stored in a memory of the information processing apparatus (see col. 3 lines 32-52);

reduce the selected images (see col. 3 lines 53 - col. 5 line 28; col. 6 lines 14-53); and

displaying the plurality of reduced images on a display screen in a designated order in correspondence with the order in which the images were selected (see col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 67).

However, Lee does not disclose a recording medium on which is recorded a computer readable control program for used by the information processing apparatus, wherein the control program including instructions causing the information processing apparatus to perform as stated above. Furthermore, Lee does not disclose displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory.

On the other hand, Anderson also discloses an information processing apparatus for displaying images. More specifically, Anderson teaches, as shown in figures 5, 7, and 9 – 11, a digital camera for storing captured digital images therein, wherein in a review mode (see figure 5), thumbnail images (1 – 9) of the captured images are simultaneously displayed on a display (402) of the camera such that a user may mark (MARK function key) one or more images as belonging to a specific group (see steps 502 and 514 in figure 7). Upon playback of a particular group (“slide show”), marked images pertaining to the user-defined groups are played back in a user-defined sequence (see figures 9 – 11). Anderson further teaches that the marked images are stored as marked images and information regarding groups and sequence of images may be stored as directories in memory (see column 5, lines 27 – 45; column 6, lines 14 – 40 and 57 – 66; column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 15). Therefore, Anderson teaches displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory.

In addition, Anderson teaches wherein the raw or unprocessed image data captured by the electronic camera (114) are transferred to a computer (see Fig. 3, computer 118) for processing and displaying a series of images captured by the electronic camera (see col. 2 line 65 - col. 3

line 57). Anderson further teaches a ROM (350) (see Fig. 3) on which is recorded a computer-readable control program for use by the electronic camera (see col. 3 lines 58-60). Therefore, Anderson teaches a recording medium on which is recorded a computer readable control program for used by the information processing apparatus, wherein the control program including instructions causing the information processing apparatus to perform.

As stated in column 2 (lines 14 – 19) of Anderson, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included a recording medium on which is recorded a computer readable control program for use by an information processing apparatus, wherein the control program includes instructions causing the information processing apparatus to display, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory, as taught by Anderson, in the information processing apparatus, disclosed by Lee, for the advantage of allowing a user to view and manipulate randomly selected image as a group without manual intervention, thereby increasing the ease of use and operation of the apparatus.

5. As for **Claim 9**, Lee, as modified by Anderson, teaches that the control program further includes instructions to partition the display screen into a plurality of smaller screens in accordance with the number of selected images (see Lee, col. 3 line 40 - col. 5 line 28), and wherein each reduced image is displayed in a corresponding one of the smaller screens (see Lee, Figs. 11A-11E).

6. As for **Claim 10**, Lee teaches that said plurality of images include photographed images (see col. 3 lines 22-52).

Art Unit: 2612

7. For **Claim 13**, Lee teaches an information processing apparatus, comprising:
- an image input device (see Fig. 3, video input 1, A/D 2; see col. 3 lines 22-24);
 - a memory (see Fig. 3, buffer memory 3 and main memory 4) which stores the images that have been input by said image input device (see col. 3 lines 25-27);
 - a selector (Fig. 3, picture selector 8 and main controller 9) which selects images from among the images stored in said memory (see col. 3 lines 32-52);
 - a controller (Fig. 3, multi-controller 10 and main memory 4) which reduces the images selected by said selector (8/9), and displays on a screen (Fig. 3, picture display 7) the reduced images (col. 5 line 28 - col. 6 line 13), wherein when a plurality of the images are selected, said controller displays the reduced images arranged in a designated order on said screen in correspondence with the order in which the images were selected (see Figs. 11A-F, col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 67).

However, Lee does not disclose displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory.

On the other hand, Anderson also discloses an information processing apparatus for displaying images. More specifically, Anderson teaches, as shown in figures 5, 7, and 9 – 11, a digital camera for storing captured digital images therein, wherein in a review mode (see figure 5), thumbnail images (1 – 9) of the captured images are simultaneously displayed on a display (402) of the camera such that a user may mark (MARK function key) one or more images as belonging to a specific group (see steps 502 and 514 in figure 7). Upon playback of a particular group (“slide show”), marked images pertaining to the user-defined groups are played back in a

Art Unit: 2612

user-defined sequence (see figures 9 – 11). Anderson further teaches that the marked images are stored as marked images and information regarding groups and sequence of images may be stored as directories in memory (see column 5, lines 27 – 45; column 6, lines 14 – 40 and 57 – 66; column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 15). Therefore, Anderson teaches displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory.

As stated in column 2 (lines 14 – 19) of Anderson, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory, as taught by Anderson, in the information processing apparatus, disclosed by Lee, for the advantage of allowing a user to view and manipulate randomly selected image as a group without manual intervention, thereby increasing the ease of use and operation of the apparatus.

8. As for **Claim 14**, Lee teaches that said controller (see Figs. 4-5, multi-controller 10) partitions the screen into a plurality of smaller screens in accordance with the number of the images selected, and displays each of the reduced images on at least one of said smaller screens (see col. 3 line 40 - col. 5 line 28).

9. As to **Claim 18**, Lee teaches a display (see Fig. 3, picture display 7) which display the images (see Fig. 11A) and the reduced images (see Figs. B-E).

10. For **Claim 20**, Lee teaches a method for processing and displaying images, comprising the steps of:

selecting images from among a plurality of stored images (see col. 3 lines 32-52);

Art Unit: 2612

reducing the selected images (see col. 3 lines 53 - col. 5 line 28; col. 6 lines 14-53); and displaying the reduced images in a designated order in correspondence with the order in which the images were selected (see Figs. 11A-F, col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 67).

However, Lee does not disclose displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory.

On the other hand, Anderson also discloses an information processing apparatus for displaying images. More specifically, Anderson teaches, as shown in figures 5, 7, and 9 – 11, a digital camera for storing captured digital images therein, wherein in a review mode (see figure 5), thumbnail images (1 – 9) of the captured images are simultaneously displayed on a display (402) of the camera such that a user may mark (MARK function key) one or more images as belonging to a specific group (see steps 502 and 514 in figure 7). Upon playback of a particular group (“slide show”), marked images pertaining to the user-defined groups are played back in a user-defined sequence (see figures 9 – 11). Anderson further teaches that the marked images are stored as marked images and information regarding groups and sequence of images may be stored as directories in memory (see column 5, lines 27 – 45; column 6, lines 14 – 40 and 57 – 66; column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 15). Therefore, Anderson teaches displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory.

As stated in column 2 (lines 14 – 19) of Anderson, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection

Art Unit: 2612

information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory, as taught by Anderson, in the information processing apparatus, disclosed by Lee, for the advantage of allowing a user to view and manipulate randomly selected image as a group without manual intervention, thereby increasing the ease of use and operation of the apparatus.

11. As for **Claim 21**, Lee teaches that the method further comprising the steps of partitioning a screen on which the reduced images are displayed into a plurality of smaller screens in accordance with the number of the images selected (see col. 3 line 40 - col. 5 line 28); and displaying each of the reduced images on at least one of said smaller screens (col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 67).

12. As for **Claim 26**, Lee teaches that prior to said selecting step, imaging an object to create said images (see col. 3 lines 22-26), and storing said images in a memory (Fig. 3, buffer 3 and main memory 4) from which the images are selected (see col. 3 lines 26-52).

13. For **Claim 27**, Lee teaches an information processing apparatus comprising:
a selector (Fig. 3, picture selector 8 and main controller 9) that selects images from among a plurality of images stored in a memory (see Fig. 3, buffer memory 3 and main memory 4) (see col. 3 lines 32-52);

a controller (Fig. 3, multi-controller 10 and main memory 4) that reduces the selected images and displays on a screen (Fig. 3, picture display 7) the reduced images (col. 5 line 28 - col. 6 line 13), wherein when a plurality of the images are selected, said controller displays the reduced images arranged in a designated order on said screen in correspondence with the order in which the images were selected (see Figs. 11A-F, col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 67).

However, Lee does not disclose displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory.

On the other hand, Anderson also discloses an information processing apparatus for displaying images. More specifically, Anderson teaches, as shown in figures 5, 7, and 9 – 11, a digital camera for storing captured digital images therein, wherein in a review mode (see figure 5), thumbnail images (1 – 9) of the captured images are simultaneously displayed on a display (402) of the camera such that a user may mark (MARK function key) one or more images as belonging to a specific group (see steps 502 and 514 in figure 7). Upon playback of a particular group (“slide show”), marked images pertaining to the user-defined groups are played back in a user-defined sequence (see figures 9 – 11). Anderson further teaches that the marked images are stored as marked images and information regarding groups and sequence of images may be stored as directories in memory (see column 5, lines 27 – 45; column 6, lines 14 – 40 and 57 – 66; column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 15). Therefore, Anderson teaches displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory.

As stated in column 2 (lines 14 – 19) of Anderson, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included displaying, in response to a display command, selected images arranged in a display order based on selection information, without taking into account an order in which the images are stored in a memory, as taught by Anderson, in the information processing apparatus, disclosed by Lee, for the advantage

Art Unit: 2612

of allowing a user to view and manipulate randomly selected image as a group without manual intervention, thereby increasing the ease of use and operation of the apparatus.

14. As for **Claim 28**, Lee teaches that said controller (see Figs. 4-5, multi-controller 10) partitions the screen into a plurality of smaller screens in accordance with the number of the images selected, and displays each of the reduced images on at least one of said smaller screens (see col. 3 line 40 - col. 5 line 28).

15. As for **Claim 29**, Lee teaches that said plurality of images include photographed images (see col. 3 lines 22-52).

16. As for **Claims 31 – 34**, Anderson teaches, as shown in figures 9 – 11, wherein said display order is an order in which the selected images were selected.

17. **Claims 11, 12, and 30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US 5 635 984) in view of Anderson (US 6 249 316 B1) in further view of Yanker (US 5 187 776).

18. As for **Claims 11, 12 and 30**, Lee, as modified by Anderson, do not teach wherein the plurality of images include line drawings.

On the other hand, Yanker teaches an information processing apparatus including displaying images. In figures 1 and 2, Yanker teaches an information processing system comprising line drawing input means (key board 6, mouse 7 and CPU 2; see col. 2 lines 45-50, col. 2 line 63 - col. 3 line 5), memory means (memory 4 and display memory 1) for storing the line drawings that have been input by said line drawing means (see col. 2 lines 33-62), display control means (CPU 2) for displaying on a screen (display 10) images and line drawings which

Art Unit: 2612

are made to correspond to the images (see col. 6 lines 19-55). Yanker further teaches that the information inputted by the keyboard 6 and the mouse 7 such as text, line, sketches, boxes, etc. within a zoom window will be displayed along with the images (see col. 3 lines 32-55; col. 6 lines 19-65).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the information processing apparatus disclosed in Lee, as modified by Anderson, by providing line drawing input means associated with selected images for the advantage of allowing additional information to be edited to the selected images without a separated editing process, thereby providing an editing system having the capability of user input anywhere on the image frame.

19. **Claims 15 and 22 – 25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US 5 635 984) in view of Anderson (US 6 249 316 B1) in further view of Katsuta et al. (US Re. 33 316).

20. As for **Claims 15 and 22 – 25**, Lee, as modified by Anderson, does not disclose reduced image selection means for selecting images from among the reduced images, wherein when the images selected from among the reduced images are selected by said reduced image selection means, said display control means displays on said screen the images corresponding to the reduced images prior to reduction thereof.

Although the combination fails to show reduced image selection means for selecting images from among the reduced images, Lee shows that images are stored in the main memory (4) while the corresponding reduced images are stored in the reproducing buffer memory (5), and

Art Unit: 2612

the images stored in the memory (4) are selected by the picture selector (8) and the microcomputer (9) (see col. 3 lines 22-52).

On the other hand, Katsuta et al. also teaches an information processing apparatus for displaying images. In figure 1, Katsuta et al. teaches an apparatus for cataloging and retrieving images data comprising a scanner (19) for optical reading an original and converting it into primary image data (col. 2 lines 40-43), memories (15/20) for storing the primary image data outputted from the scanner (19) (col. 2 lines 32-33, lines 43-45), and a compression/expansion circuit (18) for compressing the primary image data (col. 2 lines 36-40). Katsuta et al. also teaches that the compressed or reduced primary image data are stored in the memory (20) along with the corresponding primary image data (see col. 2 lines 43-45; col. 2 line 48 - col. 3 line 23), and a CRT (12) for displaying both the primary image data and the reduced primary image data (col. 2 lines 18-23). For the purpose of speedily retrieving primary data, Katsuta et al. further teaches a keyboard (11) for selecting images among the reduced primary image data (col. 3 lines 36-40; col. 4 lines 38-42; col. 5 lines 17-22), wherein when the images selected from among the reduced primary data are selected by the keyboard (11), the CPU (13) displays on the CRT (12) the images corresponding to the reduced primary data prior to reduction thereof (see col. 3 lines 56-61; col. 4 lines 42-45; col. 5 lines 23-33).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the multi-picture control circuit of Lee in view of Anderson by providing means for selecting images among the reduced images and displaying the images corresponding to the selected reduced images prior to reduction thereof for the advantage of providing an efficient search of the images by means of the reduced image data, thereby providing multi-

Art Unit: 2612

picture control circuit disclosed in Lee the capability of searching and retrieving the image data using the corresponding reduced image data in an effective and efficient manner.

21. **Claims 16, 17, 19, and 23 – 25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US 5 635 984) in view of Anderson (US 6 249 316 B1) in view of Yanker (US 5 187 776) further view of Kashiwagi et al. (US 6 037 939).

22. As for **Claim 16**, Lee in view of Anderson do not disclose line drawing input means for inputting line drawings, wherein said memory means stores the line drawings that have been input by said line drawing input means, and when the line drawings input by said line drawing input means are made to correspond to the images selected by said selection means, said reduction means reduces the line drawings stored in said memory means, and said display control means display the line drawings reduced by said reduction means along with the reduced images.

On the other hand, Yanker teaches an information processing apparatus including displaying images. In figures 1 and 2, Yanker teaches an information processing system comprising line drawing input means (key board 6, mouse 7 and CPU 2; see col. 2 lines 45-50, col. 2 line 63 - col. 3 line 5), memory means (memory 4 and display memory 1) for storing the line drawings that have been input by said line drawing means (see col. 2 lines 33-62), display control means (CPU 2) for displaying on a screen (display 10) images and line drawings which are made to correspond to the images (see col. 6 lines 19-55). Yanker further teaches that the information inputted by the key board 6 and the mouse 7 such as text, line, sketches, boxes, etc.

Art Unit: 2612

within a zoom window will be displayed enlarged to the current zoom level of the image (see col. 3 lines 32-55; col. 6 lines 19-65).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the information processing apparatus disclosed in Lee, as modified by Anderson, by providing line drawing input means associated with selected images for the advantage of allowing additional information to be edited to the selected images without a separated editing process, thereby providing an editing system having the capability of user input anywhere on the image frame.

With respect to the limitation that the reduction means reduces the line drawings stored in said memory means and said display control means displays the line drawings reduced by said reduction means along with the reduced images, although Lee as modified by Anderson and Yanker, does not specifically teach the reduction means reduces the line drawings stored in said memory means, Yanker does teach that the information inputted by the line drawing input means (key board 6 and the mouse 7) such as text, line, sketches, boxes, etc. within a zoom window will be displayed enlarged to the current zoom level of the image (see col. 3 lines 32-55; col. 6 lines 19-65). The teaching thus suggests that additional information of an image within a display window is operable in whatever zoom level of the image is currently in effect.

On the other hand, Kashiwagi et al. also teaches an information processing apparatus including displaying images. In figure 18, Kashiwagi teaches an information processing apparatus (6) comprising a multi-window display device (405a), a storage device (403), a CPU (401), and a graphics process section (402). Kashiwagi further teaches that graphics content

Art Unit: 2612

within a display window are resized such as zoomed or reduced as the display is resized (see col. 23 line 41 - col. 24 line 24; col. 25 line 56 - col. 26 line 32).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the information processing apparatus of Lee in view of Anderson and Yanker by reducing the line drawings and displaying the line drawings reduced along with the reduced images, as taught in Kashiwagi, for the advantage that the line drawings associated with the images will be properly displayed when the images are zoomed or reduced, thereby providing the information processing apparatus the capability of properly displaying the images along with its edited information even when the images are zoomed or reduced.

23. As to **Claim 17**, Lee, as modified by Anderson, Yanker, and Kashiwagi, teaches that when the line drawings stored in said memory means have been selected by said selection means, said reduction means reduces the line drawings, and said display control means displays the reduced line drawings that comprise the line drawings reduced by said reduction means (Kashiwagi, col. 23 line 41 - col. 24 line 24; col. 25 line 56 - col. 26 line 32).

24. As to **Claim 19**, Lee, as modified by Yanker and Kashiwagi, teaches that the display means displays line drawings and reduced line drawings (see Yanker, col. 3 lines 32-55; col. 6 lines 19-65 and also see Kashiwagi, col. 23 line 41 - col. 24 line 24; col. 25 line 56 - col. 26 line 32).

Art Unit: 2612

Cited Prior Art

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure at least for the reason that each discloses method and an information processing apparatus for displaying thumbnail images in a certain order.

Conclusion

26. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

27. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM and on alternating Fridays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

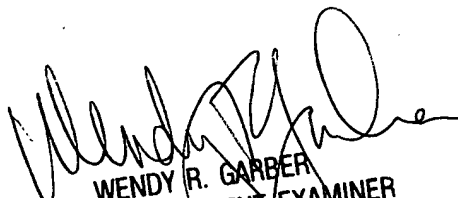
Art Unit: 2612

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on 571.272.7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JPM

June 22, 2005


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800